

The Selection of an Interview with Magibon for Magazine, March 31, 2008

Translated by Forryga and JL in Chicago, U.S.,
helped me with the translation.

For Magibon who has a great liking for Japan, What about first love? Who is your type?

>What kind of child were you in your childhood?

I was a dreamy child and often got lost in thought.

> In your childhood, what did you think you wanted to be when you grew up?

I was going to be a musician or a singer something like that.

>Which subject did you like in your school days?

English and French.

> Which one did you dislike?

I dislike mathematics and science. I am weak in mathematics.

>When did you have your first love?

It was in my second year of high school. An American high school is a four-year school. I had a crush on a Senior who is a fourth-year student. But it did not go well.

>What type was he?

He was a kind of an athlete. He was a wrestler. I cannot understand why I had a crush on him now (with a short laugh).

>Recently, you stopped working in daytime, didn't you?

>What are you doing now?

I am doing nothing especially. But recently, as my mother gave birth to a baby, I take care of the baby in her absence (I baby-sit).

>What are your interests (tastes)?

The Internet, and learning Japanese. I like to bake cookies and cakes, also. Sometimes, I go to a movie on the weekend, too.

>Do you have a kind of special ability or qualifications?

I have nothing particular, but I play the flute a little. I am not very good.

>Did you go to New York City?

Honestly, I did not go to New York City. I want to go to there, but I have no license to drive.

[Note: interview was before Magibon's trip to Japan, etc.]

>Where do you go shopping?

I buy stuff online.

>Which brand do you like?

In cosmetics, I like Stila.

>Which part do you like more, your face or body?

Everyone praises my eyes, so I like my eyes. I also like my shoulders. So, I often wear a tank top.

> Explain your personality in a word?

I am usually reticent. Sometimes, I worry. And I'm very shy of strangers. So, I am not too confident of myself.

>Do you have a boyfriend?

No, I do not.

>Well, Which type do you like?

My type is tenderheartedness, and putting his heart into his work. I dislike complaining about his situation.

>Have you ever gone abroad?

No, I have not. But I got a passport this year, as I would like to go to Japan. Florida is the most distant place I have been until now.

> Why did you contribute your own video on YouTube?

I only wanted to see my image in the Internet. I seldom talked and I had a boring life until then, so I tried it first as a diversion. Accordingly, I spoke nothing in the video (with a wry smile). I thought that nobody watched the video. But many people watched it, then many requests came, they wished me to upload my video into YouTube. Accordingly, I continued to upload.

> Is it surprising that you have so many responses from all over world in this time?

Yes, it is. Especially, I was surprised and did not realize Japanese people watched my video. Accordingly, I wanted to say somehow "Thank you" to those who watched my video. But I did not know Japanese at all then. I did not know how to thank them. At last I said "Thank you" in English, then they were surprised that I could speak, and the viewers went on increasing.

>Do you think about responses from all over world?

It amounted to 20 million total viewers who watched my videos. It is incredible to me so many people watched my videos. Recently, my sister's friend saw it and said, "She is your older sister, isn't she?" and I was surprised. I am scared sometimes.

>You are scared?

Yes, a stalker may come. But almost all the comments on the net are warm-hearted ones. "I am made calm as I watch you" or "Today was nasty day, but you made me calm as I watched you." The responses made me happy.

>You sang the song of Aming's (female duo) "Matsuwa" on YouTube, didn't you?

>Why did you sing this song?

>What part of the song do you like?

I thought this song was nice when I watched the old black-and-white video. The impression was indelibly burnt into my mind. So, I sang the song. But it was embarrassing (she shies away).

>Do you know the meaning of the lyrics?

"Matsuwa" means "waiting", doesn't it? I do not understand at all. But I feel the atmosphere of the song if I sing the song and read the lyrics.

>The song tells of a kind of Japanese mentality.

>If young girl loves somebody, she does not confess, but only waits.

>This is an example of a Japanese young girl who acts and thinks that way.

I think all young girls are as same as you said. I am an old fashioned girl, also.

>Are you positive about love?

No, I am absolutely not. I am not a type that matures early (I am a late-bloomer).

>Do you like to sing songs?

Yes, I do. I like to very much. But I am no good.

>You sang "Soy sauce Warrior Kikkoman", didn't you?

I cannot remember how I know it. I think I learned about it when I was surfing on 2channel. I forgot the reason why I made it now.

Someday I go to Japan and I work there!

>What sort of Japanese culture do you like?

My interest is Japanese drama and J-POP at this time.

>Who is your favorite Japanese singer?

I like Mo-Musu (Morning Musume), I often listen to Brilliant Green, also. I have a great liking for Tommy (Tomoko Kawase, not male) as a vocal, too. My most favorite one is Ayaka Komatsu. She performed as a model and actress. I love her.

> How did you originally found out about Komatsu?

I saw her on the program Sailor Moon. Thereafter I pay attention to her all the time.

>What about her do you like?

Komatsu is not like a model in the United States. American models are all tall and have bronzed tanned skin. So, I have never seen a model like her. I feel a connection toward her, as her figure resembles mine in a sense. I have absolutely no confidence in my features. She is small, but she is really beautiful and lovely. She is cute wearing any clothes.

> You are knowledgeable about Japanese entertainment, aren't you?

I know about the female talent who was punished for shoplifting, and the other who retired for smoking when was not yet of age. Besides that, I heard that a talent producer can take 90% the performance fee of the talent. Can it be true? (she is very earnest)

>I do not know whether they can do that (with bitter smile).

>Well, what do you think about how the contents of the magazine Weekly Play Boy

>are aimed at Japanese young men?

I knew the magazine and the contents from seeing Komatsu in it.

I did not think that it was especially embarrassing and was surprised.

But I am embarrassed to show it to my friends in U.S.

In America, porn magazines are either really obscene or not. It is a style that is midway between really obscene and not...but American people think it is porn (with laugh).

>Magibon, you pronounce Japanese clearly, where did you learn it?

I learned it from Japanese drama. I specifically watched and listened closely for it. I learned the pronunciation from the conversation in the dramas. I trained my voice after hearing their part many times.

>How wonderful it is! I think you have a good ear.

But I am not good at memory (bitter smile).

I look up same word in a dictionary many times, as if I've never seen the word once. And my vocabulary is not good enough; I have absolutely no confidence about that. People say you I am Japanese-American. It cannot be true.

>Do you have some study-aid books about Japanese?

I have some books. I do not learn much from a textbook or a study-aid book, I almost all learn it from my ears.

>You wrote the blog in Kanji (used in Japanese writing) sometimes.

>How did you do it?

I consult a Japanese dictionary or look up with translation software. I installed a Japanese dictionary in my P.C.

>If you work in Japan, would you learn Japanese harder?

>Are you seriously determined to learn it?

Yes, of course!

> Japanese is very different language from English.

>Do you think it is difficult, as it is almost completely different from English?

Yes, I do. I am not scared about it, as I have continued to study it. I was surprised when I first saw Japanese letters. They looked like many small lines were swimming in a pool. It looks familiar, but Kanji is still difficult to me.

>If you go abroad Japan, What would you do there?

I want to be open to everything. If the professional tells me that you are suitable to do it, I will try to do it.

>Are you all right to appear in a magazine picture with a swimsuit?

I am all right. I do not especially feel like doing a bikini photo. I have poses which I do not want to get into.

>You must do something new other than appear in a magazine picture.

>Something like sing a song or dance and performance.

>It is expected that the talents in Japan can speak or do something funny on TV.

>Don't you have TV program in the U.S. similar to Japanese ones?

>Can you do such things?

I'll do my best.

>If you become a celebrity, you must be exposed to public criticism.

>Do you have mental preparation against such a negative flank?

I experienced such a thing this year. Because the wrong information or lies going around. I experienced that I can laugh it off.

>How about your dreams for future?

My biggest goal at this time is I want to go to Japan to work in the community of Japanese entertainment.

It is a big dream and a serious matter for me that leave this town and go to Japan, as much as anyone could have such a goal. Assuming that it will come true, if my neighbors and my friends could see my goal come true, I think it is great.

“Yumewo akiramenaide! (Don't give up your dreams!)” I wonder if I cheer up anybody to say so.

>Well, Please give your message for all subscribers.

I really want to go abroad Japan.

I exert myself!